

313 East Bolton Street  
Savannah Victorian Historic District  
Savannah  
Chatham County  
Georgia

GA-1169-K

HABS,  
GA,  
26-SAV,  
53K-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SAVANNAH VICTORIAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

313 EAST BOLTON STREET

HABS No. GA-1169K

Location: 313 East Bolton Street, south side of Bolton Street between Lincoln and Habersham Streets, Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia.

Present Owner: Elizabeth Anderson.

Present Use: Single-family residence.

Significance: This simple, one-story, central-hall cottage was built in the 1880s in the Victorian District by a prominent local carpenter for rental property. It incorporates the sawn wood ornament of the period, but did not have many of the mechanical conveniences being introduced into houses at the time. This would not be unusual as rental property was much in demand at very modest prices, and this house was built to meet that demand.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1885. The house was first taxed in 1886, thus was built in 1885. This date is substantiated by the new improvement Book of 1885.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original owner: John Joseph McMahon. The property is on lot 21, White Ward.
4. Builder: John Joseph McMahon was a native of County Clare, Ireland. He was in the contracting business in Savannah for many years, and before he died at age 86, he was also involved in a second-hand furniture business. He is described in his obituary in the Savannah Morning News as a "Venerable Irish-American citizen with flowing white beard" who had come to be a fixture in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. When he died in 1935 he was the oldest living member of the Irish Jasper Greens, military company in Savannah.
5. Alterations and additions: The Sanborn maps of 1880 and 1898 do not show a rear porch, indicating that it was a later addition. A lean-to stoop has been added to the rear.

For background information, see Savannah Victorian Historic District, HABS No. GA-1169.

B. Bibliography:

Savannah Morning News, 20 May 1935. Georgia Historical Society Microfilm.

Tax Digests, 1885, 1886. Savannah, Georgia. Located at Georgia Historical Society.

New Improvement Books, 1885, Georgia Historical Society.

Deed Records, Chatham County Courthouse, Books O 94, 4 V 544, 4 Y 580, 7 V 332.

Insurance Maps of Savannah, 1888, 1898, Sanborn Map Company, New York.

Prepared by: Beth Lattimore Reiter  
Project Historian  
Historic American Buildings  
Survey  
August, 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house at 313 East Bolton Street is a central-hall plan cottage, two rooms deep, ornamented with bold swan scrollwork.
2. Condition and fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The one-story structure measures 31' across its five-bay front by 52'-6".
2. Foundations: Raised brick pier foundation. Chimney foundations have open fireboxes, presumably to clean out ashes from above.
3. Wall construction, finish: Clapboard siding painted white with green trim.
4. Structural system: Wood frame.
5. Porches, stoops: A one-story wooden porch extends across the north (front) elevation, and is approached from the west by a metal stair. The porch rests on a brick foundation. The porch roof is supported by four chamfered square posts with pedestal bases. Two pilasters are built against the facade, one at either end of the porch. The bays between the posts are filled with decorative sawn scrollwork and fan brackets.
6. Chimneys: Two stuccoed brick chimneys with metal caps are located at the rear of the gable roof. A brick chimney is located in the southeast corner of the long room across the back of the house.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways, doors: The center front door is framed by plain surrounds and a rectangular transom. The door has a wooden frame with glass on the top half and five raised panels arranged in tiers below. The rear door is framed by a rectangular transom and two sidelights.
- b. Windows and shutters: The front elevation windows are floor length, with four-over-six-light double-hung sash allowing access to the porch. Floor-length louvered shutters cover the windows. The remaining windows are six-over-six-light double-hung sash surrounded by plain trim. The rectangular opening in the east gable is louvered; the rectangular opening in the west gable has a batten shutter that is kept closed.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Standing seam tin on the gable roof.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The front porch has a deep cornice supported by small brackets. A built-in gutter system on the porch is fitted with metal downspouts.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: Central hall plan, two rooms deep. A long room extending across the rear is divided into a kitchen and bath.
2. Stairs: None.
3. Flooring: Hardwood, covered with vinyl.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Narrow beaded tongue-and-groove paneling throughout the house, including the ceilings. A chair rail articulates the wall surface of the central hall.
5. Doorways, doors: Wooden four-panel doors throughout.
6. Decorative features and trim: The mantels in the north rooms are wooden with rectangular openings. A plain wooden frieze and simple pilasters support a simple rectangular mantel shelf.

The southern rooms have the same plain mantels but have tile in the hearth.

7. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating: The house was originally heated by fireplaces. Heating ducts have subsequently been installed.
- b. Lighting: No evidence of the original system. Currently electric.
- c. Plumbing: No evidence of the original system.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces north and is built on the lot line. It is situated on the north half of the lot with a large yard to the rear.
2. Outbuildings: Originally there was a structure on the lane but it no longer stands.

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the City of Savannah, the Historic Preservation Section of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Savannah Landmark Rehabilitation Project, Inc., and Historic Savannah Foundation. The recording project was completed during the summer of 1979 under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect; Eric Delony, Project Coordinator, Savannah Landmark Rehabilitation Project, Inc.; Beth Lattimore Reiter, Project Historian, Savannah Landmark Rehabilitation Project, Inc.; and Susan Dornbusch, Project Supervisor, University of Virginia; with student architects Gregori Anderson (Howard University), David Fixler (Columbia University), Stephen Lauf (Temple University), and Tamara Peacock (University of Florida), at the HABS Office in Savannah, Georgia. The drawings were edited in the Washington office in September 1979 by architects Susan Dornbusch and Gregori Anderson. The historical and architectural data was reviewed and edited during October-November 1979 by staff historian Jan Cigliano. Photographs were taken in September 1979 by Walter Smalling, a staff photographer with the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. The documentation on the historic district will be used in the rehabilitation of the residences and in developing design guidelines for the area.